

**PATENT** Docket No. 524182000400

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> Ruth M Saskowski

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Lee A. BULLA, Jr. and Mehmet CANDAS

Serial No.:

09/696,929

Filing Date:

25 October 2000

For: MICROBE, MICROBIAL EXOPOLY-SACCHARIDE AND USES THEREOF Examiner: Francisco Chandler Prats

Group Art Unit: 1651

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## SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This amendment is offered in response to a telephone communication from the Examiner in the above-referenced case. In electing to prosecute the claims of Group III, claims 43-50, it was overlooked that claims 43-46 depend from a canceled claim. The following amendment is intended to correct this.